

Security Advisory for Indian Nationals in Afghanistan (29 June 2021)

1. The security situation in Afghanistan remains dangerous in several provinces. Terror groups operating in Afghanistan have escalated violent activities and carried out a series of complex attacks in various parts of Afghanistan, including targeting Afghan Defense and Security Forces and Afghan Government Institutions and even civilians. Indian nationals are not exceptions, and they additionally face a serious threat of kidnapping.
2. In recent weeks, targeted attacks are on the rise in various provinces and districts, directed against Government establishments and security posts, have seen civilians caught in the middle of the conflict. Incidents of roadside IED blasts and magnetic IEDs used to target vehicles of civilians continue to be reported from many parts of the country.
3. In view of the heightened security threats, all Indian nationals visiting, staying and working in Afghanistan are advised to exercise utmost vigilance and caution with regard to security at work place, place of residence and also during movement to their places of work.
4. All Indian nationals arriving in Afghanistan are advised to register with the Embassy/Consulates on the website: <https://eoi.gov.in/kabul/> or by email to paw.kabul@mea.gov.in. Those who are already present but have not registered or not updated their contact details are also requested to do so immediately.
5. All Indian nationals are also strongly advised to avoid all types of non-essential movements. Movements especially during peak commuting hours should also be avoided. While traveling on roads, maintain distance from possible targets like military convoys, vehicles of Govt. Ministries/offices, high ranking officials, law enforcement agencies, and avoid visiting crowded markets, shopping complexes, mandis, restaurants and other public places.
6. Any essential movement may please be kept as discrete as possible. Movements generally should not have a predictable pattern and timing and routes taken should be changed wherever possible to maintain an element of surprise. It is advisable to be in a high state of alertness during essential movements.

7. Traveling outside the main cities should be avoided. While undertaking such travel for very essential it should be undertaken by Air as many highways and roads are unsafe and prone to attacks and illegal check posts put up by anti-government elements. Where such travel outside Kabul and/or other major cities are unavoidable, you are requested to contact the Indian Embassy or Consulates in Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif (as may be required) to seek updates on the security situation as well as the necessary precautions to be taken. The contact details are given below and also available on the Embassy website: www.eoi.gov.in/Kabul
8. Also, please keep the contact number of nearest police station, the Indian Embassy/Consulate as well as colleagues or, other Indians in Afghanistan known to you, readily available to contact in case of any emergency. Notify a trusted person of your travel plans and place of stay.
9. Please keep in mind that due to security and COVID-19 pandemic situation, the availability/schedule of flights to travel between India and Afghanistan as well as between major cities within Afghanistan changes, often without advance public notice. All essential/unavoidable travel may be planned keeping this in mind.
10. Keep following the news media and tweets (social media) by local security authorities and the Embassy of India for security-related updates.
11. Any suspicious situation, person or activity may please be brought to notice of the Public Affairs & Security Wing of the Indian Embassy, Kabul at the contact details given below.
12. Indian companies which are operating in Afghanistan are strongly advised to take up necessary security measures in respect of their Indian employees deployed at project sites. You may contact the Security and Public Affairs Wing of the Embassy to seek necessary guidance/advise/ assistance in respect of your Indian employees working in Afghanistan.
13. Finally, as a “third wave” of COVID-19 pandemic is still prevalent in Afghanistan, please follow all COVID-appropriate protocols including wearing mask, using sanitizer and maintaining physical distancing. Utmost care may be maintained as adequate medical facilities may not be available in every part of the country.

14. Contact Details

- (i) Embassy of India in Kabul. Public Affairs & Security Wing

Official Mobile numbers (available on WhatsApp also): +93706131611,
+93705127863

Email: paw.kabul@mea.gov.in

- (ii) Consulate General of India, Kandahar

Mobile Number: +93-703750087

Email: cons.kandahar@mea.gov.in

- (iii) Consulate General of India, Mazar-e-Sharif

Mobile Number: +93-785891303

Email: cons.mesharif@mea.gov.in
